

I Claim:

1. In multicarrier communication system including a first multicarrier transceiver and a second multicarrier transceiver, a method for variable state length initialization comprising:

transmitting from the first multicarrier transceiver to the second multicarrier transceiver information identifying a minimum number of multicarrier symbols in an initialization state;

transmitting from the first multicarrier transceiver to the second multicarrier transceiver at least the minimum number of multicarrier symbols during the initialization state; and

transmitting a predefined signal from the second multicarrier transceiver to the first multicarrier transceiver allowing the first multicarrier transceiver to exit the initialization state and enter a new initialization state, wherein the predefined signal is sent from the second multicarrier transceiver to the first multicarrier transceiver after the second multicarrier transceiver receives at least the minimum number of multicarrier symbols in the initialization state.